



TADCASTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY MEETING

Thursday 14 January 2016

Minutes

Present: Philip Turnpenny (Chair), Mike Dunphy, Ruth McHenry, Nicholas Fawcett, Jeremy Airey, David Gluck, Karl Shields, Martyn Sibley (Head), Heather Smith

In attendance: Wendy Fraser (SLT), David Ferrett (Business Manager), Siân Henderson (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Roger Riley, Amanda Crossley and Chris Burt

2. Confidentiality and declaration of interests

Governors were reminded of the confidential nature of discussion. No declarations of interest in items for discussion were made by governors, other than the fact that staff governors have an interest in the changes discussed as part of the cost improvement plan.

3. Cost Improvement Plan

Budgetary considerations led to the governing body asking the school's Senior Leadership Team to prepare a plan that would produce a balanced (in-year) budget for 2016/17. However, it had been reported that this objective was unlikely to be achieved before 2017/18. The resulting proposal has been considered in detail by the Resources and School Development Committees and was now brought for discussion and final decision by the full governing body.

The governing body accepted the proposed changes to the curriculum for KS3 and KS4 as outlined in the paper prepared by Wendy Fraser

The governing body agreed an increase in teaching hours from 43 to 44 over a two-week period (equivalent to a reduction in non-contact teaching from 14% to 12%)

The governing body agreed that salary costs should be considered when offering appointments to otherwise equally-desirable candidates

The governing body agreed that the leadership team should be reduced in the medium term by one member, by natural wastage if possible.

The governing body agreed a reduction in the number of teaching assistants by 1+ FTE, by natural wastage over the course of a year

Other aspects of the plan will be considered further by the Resources Committee. The governing body thanked David Ferrett and Wendy Fraser for their work on the proposal.

THE COST IMPROVEMENT PLAN, AS PRESENTED BY THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM, WAS APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY.

[Mike Dunphy joined the meeting at this point and Wendy Fraser left]

4. Cover Supervisor Restructure

Changes to the arrangements for internal cover supervision were discussed. The proposal would lead to savings due to the reduction in the use of external supply staff but would also lead to improved efficiency.

The governing body approved the proposed restructure of the cover supervisor team, which will be monitored by the Resources Committee.

A governor asked whether staff will have increased access to technology to facilitate communication and develop classroom management. Mike Dunphy reported that this is an issue that is constantly under review and there is a commitment to improve provision.

[Heather Smith and David Ferrett left the meeting at this point]

5. Governor Priorities 2015/16

The following priorities were agreed:

- (i) to facilitate delivery of the TGS 'Culture of Excellence' to underpin continuing school improvement;
- (ii) to achieve financial stability by reviewing the cost-effectiveness of all aspects of the school's work;
- (iii) to ensure greater emphasis is placed on students' experience in Key Stage 3 when considering proposed school developments to secure early successes on which learners' further outcomes depend;
- (iv) to engage with the STAR and Yorkshire Teaching School Alliances for the benefit of the school.

A governor asked about the cost of the alliances and it was reported that there is a small cost to the STAR Alliance but no cost associated with the Teaching School Alliances.

6. Use of Google

All governors were issued with school email addresses (which are gmail based) and will be given access to a Google Drive where governor documents will be stored.

7. Date of next meeting

21 March at 6.30 pm